



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



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SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

To: Interested Local Educators

From: Marilyn Roberts, Director
Office of Educational Assessment & Accountability

Date: May 19, 2006

**Subject: Michigan English Language Proficiency Assessment Item
Development Team Application**

An aspect of developing tests for the Michigan English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPA) is to develop high quality items. We need Michigan educators to participate in this important activity.

Participants selected to be part of the Item Development Team will meet in June and August 2006 under the direction of ELPA staff, the ELPA administration contractor, and other curriculum and assessment specialists. Participants will learn first-hand how to develop high-quality assessment items. This skill will assist educators as they develop assessments at the classroom and school levels, and reinforce the importance of utilizing Michigan standards in the development of curriculum and materials. Participation in this process will also permit teachers to assist the state in assuring that the ELPA assessments are appropriate for Michigan's children and youth.

We are planning to hold two sessions. Applicants will be asked to attend a three-day meeting in June or August to develop items. The first session will take place on **June 20, 21 and 22, 2006**, and the second session is scheduled for **August 9, 10 and 11, 2006**. The OEAA is offering compensation of \$250 per day, plus mileage, hotel expenses, and meals. In the event that a school district has to hire a substitute teacher for any meeting participant, the amount paid by the school for the substitute teacher will be deducted from this compensation amount. In addition to monetary compensation, you will also receive the satisfaction of knowing that you helped assure the quality of the Michigan ELPA.

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I hope that you will seriously consider joining this exciting and challenging effort. To apply, complete the application, including sample items, by the due date of June 9, 2006. Please contact me at (517) 335-0567 or robertsm@michigan.gov with any questions. Thank you in advance for considering this opportunity to assist us in this important activity.

pc: Jeremy Hughes, Chief Academic Officer

Ed Roeber, Senior Executive Director, OEAA